THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has decided to introduce a defined contribution pension scheme for new entrants to Central Government Service, except to the armed forces in the first stage, which will also be available, on a voluntary basis, to others. Contribution will be shared equally in the case of Central Government employees between the Central Government and the employees. However, there will be no contribution from the Central Government in respect of individuals who are not Central Government employees.

(d) to (f) In the Eleventh Conference of the State Finance Secretaries held in the Reserve Bank of India of on January 9, 2003, it was felt that a detailed examination of the issues relating to States' increasing pension liabilities could facilitate the States to initiate appropriate measures in this regard. Accordingly, the State Finance Secretaries formed a Group to study the pension liabilities of State Government under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Bhattacharya, former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.The Group consisted of Finance Secretaries of eight States, representative from the Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare, Government of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India and few experts. The recommendations of the Group would be discussed in the next Conference of the State Finance Secretaries to be held at the Reserve Bank of India.

Write-Offs of Principal Loans

1438. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. VIJAY MALLAYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of various write-offs of principal loans made by Public Sector Banks operating in the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details of such write-offs of principal amounts made during the last three years;

(c) the total loss suffered by Public Sector Indian Banks operating world-wide (outside India) through the write-offs of principal amounts in the last three years in view of part (a) and (b)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extant available.

Involvement of external agencies in working of IT Department

†1439. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards work being done by the outsiders in Income Tax Department whose appointments have been made without departmental orders; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) In order to give better service to tax payers, outsourcing was permitted for Data Entry. This was done to facilitate expeditious disposal of large amount of pending cases and to honour the commitment made to the assessees for processing returns within 4 months. No fresh appointments can be made without clearance from the Screening Committee.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Vanishing Companies

1440. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court had ordered the Security and Exchange Board of India to submit details of vanishing companies;

(b) if so, whether the information has since been submitted; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.